

## Reflection Thursday Week 9 – 2023

In Jesus' encounter with the Scribe, we are made aware that not all the scribes were against Jesus. It is also possible that a number of them were among the first disciples of Jesus. In his answer to the question, Jesus goes a step further giving not just the first commandment but a summary of all the commandments. Love God and love your neighbour because you cannot do one without the other.

**Pope Francis:** Jesus establishes two essential principles for believers. The first: love must always be the driving force behind following God's commandments.

The second: love must lead us together and inseparably toward God and toward our neighbour.

One of the major innovations of Jesus' teachings is that he helps us understand that it is not true love of God if it is not expressed in the love of the other, and, vice versa, it is not true love of the other if it is not rooted in one's relationship with God.

Love for God is expressed most of all in prayer and adoration, and love for one's neighbour is expressed by being close to them, listening to them, sharing and caring for them. Too often we overlook listening to others because it is boring or because it takes up my time; such feelings even arise when a person needs someone close during times of trial or sorrow.

Communion is a gift to be invoked each day, but also a personal commitment so that our life is not left to become enslaved by the idols of the world. The proof of our journey of conversion and holiness always consists in love of neighbour.

**Did you hear about the red ship and blue ship that collided?** All the sailors were marooned.

**What stays in the corner but travels all over the world?** A stamp.

**Why can't you take anything balloons say seriously?** They're always full of hot air.